



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Privacy Act of 1974; Matching Program

AGENCY: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice of New Matching Program.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is providing notice of a new matching program between CMS and the Peace Corps for “Verification of Eligibility for Minimum Essential Coverage Under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act through a Peace Corps Health Benefits Plan.”

DATES: The deadline for comments on this notice is [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]. The re-established matching program will commence not sooner than 30 days after publication of this notice, provided no comments are received that warrant a change to this notice. The matching program will be conducted for an initial term of 18 months (from approximately July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022) and within 3 months of expiration may be renewed for one additional year if the parties make no change to the matching program and certify that the program has been conducted in compliance with the matching agreement.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties may submit comments as follows:

1. Electronically. You may send your comments electronically to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for “Comment or Submission” or “More Search Options” to find the information collection document(s) that are accepting comments.

2. By Regular Mail. You may mail written comments to the following address: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Division of Security, Privacy Policy & Governance, Information Security & Privacy Group, Office of Information Technology, Location: N1-14-56, 7500 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21244-1850.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions about the matching program, you may contact Anne Pesto, Senior Advisor, Marketplace Eligibility and Enrollment Group, Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, at 410-786-3492, by email at anne.pesto@cms.hhs.gov, or by mail at 7500 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21244.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (5 U.S.C. 552a) provides certain protections for individuals applying for and receiving federal benefits. The law governs the use of computer matching by federal agencies when records in a system of records (meaning, federal agency records about individuals retrieved by name or other personal identifier) are matched with records of other federal or non-federal agencies. The Privacy Act requires agencies involved in a matching program to:

1. Enter into a written agreement, which must be prepared in accordance with the Privacy Act, approved by the Data Integrity Board of each source and recipient federal agency, provided to Congress and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and made available to the public, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(o), (u)(3)(A), and (u)(4).
2. Notify the individuals whose information will be used in the matching program that the information they provide is subject to verification through matching, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(o)(1)(D).
3. Verify match findings before suspending, terminating, reducing, or making a final denial of an individual's benefits or payments or taking other adverse action against the individual, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(p).

4. Report the matching program to Congress and the OMB, in advance and annually, as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(o) (2)(A)(i), (r), and (u)(3)(D).
5. Publish advance notice of the matching program in the *Federal Register* as required by 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(12).

This matching program meets these requirements.

Barbara Demopulos,
Privacy Advisor,
Division of Security, Privacy Policy and Governance,
Office of Information Technology,
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES:

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is the recipient agency, and the Peace Corps is the source agency.

AUTHORITY FOR CONDUCTING THE MATCHING PROGRAM:

The principal statutory authority for the matching program is 42 U.S.C. 18001, et seq.

PURPOSE(S):

The purpose of the matching program is to assist CMS in determining individuals' eligibility for financial assistance in paying for private health insurance coverage. In this matching program, the Peace Corps provides CMS with data identifying all Peace Corps volunteers, which CMS makes available to state administering entities (AEs) through a data services hub, under a separate matching agreement. CMS and AEs use the Peace Corps data to verify whether an individual who is applying for or is enrolled in private health insurance coverage under a qualified health plan through a federally-facilitated or state-based health insurance exchange is eligible for coverage under a Peace Corps health benefit plan, for the purpose of determining the individual's eligibility for financial assistance (including an advance tax credit and cost sharing reduction, which are types of insurance affordability programs) in paying for private health insurance coverage. Peace Corps health benefit plans provide minimum essential coverage, and

eligibility for such plans precludes eligibility for financial assistance in paying for private coverage. The data provided by the Peace Corps under this matching program will be used by CMS and AEs to authenticate identity, determine eligibility for financial assistance, and determine the amount of any financial assistance.

CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS:

The categories of individuals whose information is involved in the matching program are:

- Active and recently separated Peace Corps volunteers, identified in data CMS receives from the Peace Corps; and
- Consumers who apply for or are enrolled in private insurance coverage under a qualified health plan through a federally-facilitated health insurance exchange (and other relevant individuals, such as applicants' and enrollees' household members), whose records are matched against the data CMS receives from the Peace Corps.

CATEGORIES OF RECORDS:

The categories of records which will be provided by the Peace Corps to CMS in this matching program are identity records and minimum essential coverage period records, consisting of these data elements: last name, middle initial, first name, and date of birth. CMS will not send any data about individual applicants/enrollees to the Peace Corps in order to receive this data about Peace Corps volunteers.

A. System of Records Maintained by CMS

CMS Health Insurance Exchanges System (HIX), CMS System No. 09-70-0560, last published in full at 78 FR 63211 (Oct. 23, 2013), as amended at 83 FR 6591 (Feb. 14, 2018).

B. System of Records Maintained by Peace Corps

The Peace Corps SORN that supports this matching program is PC-17 Peace Corps, Volunteer Applicant and Service Records System, published at 50 FR 1950 (Jan. 14, 1985) and partially amended at 65 FR 63641 (Oct. 24, 2000), 72 FR 44878 (Aug. 9, 2007), 75 FR

53000 (Aug. 30, 2010), and 79 FR 41599 (July 16, 2014). Routine Use (i) published at 50 FR 1950 (Jan. 14, 1985), which permits disclosures “to verify active or former volunteer service,” authorizes the Peace Corps’ disclosures to CMS.

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